

c.) Remarks

Claims 1-15 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 2, 9, and 10 have been amended in various particulars as indicated hereinabove.

Claims 1-2, 6-10 and 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander *et al.* (5,798,855) in view of Ishikawa *et al.* (5,745,322). In a related rejections, claims 3-5 and 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Alexander *et al.* (5,798,855) in view of Ishikawa *et al.* (5,745,322) as applied to claims 1-2, 6-10 and 13-15 above, and further in view of Obhi *et al.* (6,262,822).

These rejections are respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

Both of the independent claims require the generation of a ramp voltage for scanning the tunable filter over the scan bands. This operation is consistent with the spectrometer operation of the claimed invention.

In contrast, the applied references appear to be directed to detector systems that detect transmitted data, and do not perform spectral analysis.

Withdrawal of the rejection is thus requested.

It is believed that the present application is in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully solicited. Should any questions arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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